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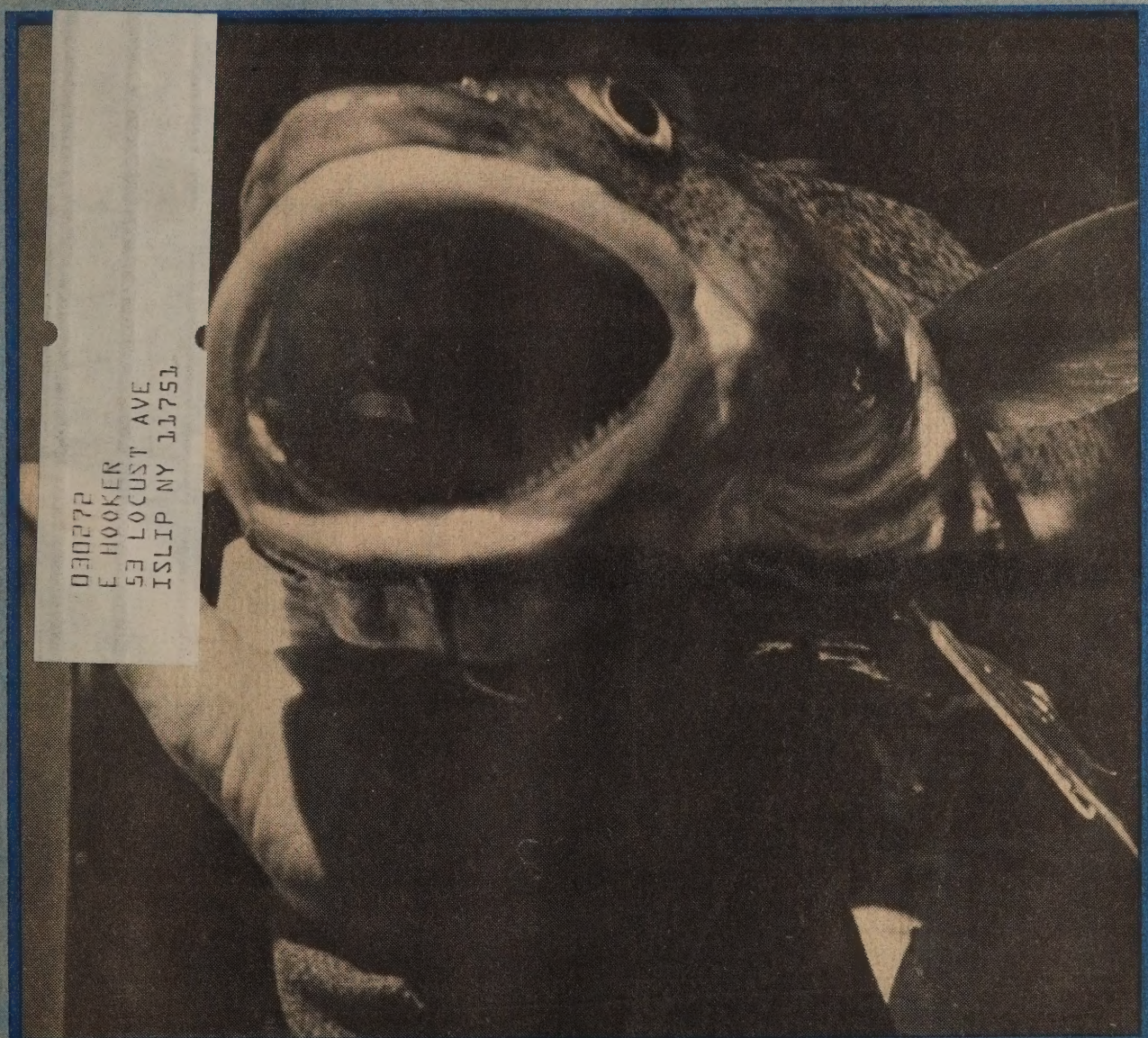
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

DECEMBER 9th, 1976, ISSUE No. 47



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The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 11, No. 47 DECEMBER 9th, 1976

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The bucketmouth of the cod: a face only a winter fisherman could love.

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two (2) weeks in January, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corp., L.I.F. Building, 8 West 7th St., P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729. Telephone 516-667-6633. Second class postage is paid at Deer Park. 35 cents a copy; 1 year, 50 issues, $9.00; 2 years, 100 issues, $17.00; 3 years, 150 issues, $25.00. Back issues are sold for 50 cents a copy. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All consideration will be given these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both old and new address. Allow two weeks for change.

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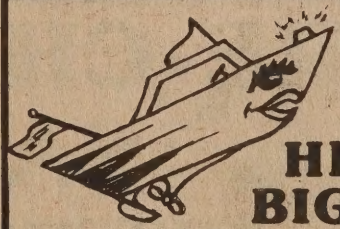

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CHUM LINES

SALT WATER FISHING LICENSE RESPONSE

I am writing in reference to your recent editorial. Although upstate legislators may be pushing for saltwater license for shellfish means, I feel it is a good idea. I am both a fresh and salt water fisherman so naturally I have been purchasing my license for the last eight years. In recent time we have seen the fluke and striper limits created. Fishing regulations of any sort are useless unless there is an enforcing agency. I must say that I have been stopped by an inquiring game warden more often while fishing salt water rather than freshwater. Who is paying these salaries? The fresh water fisherman. Isn't it only fair that the salt water fisherman gives his share. If they don't who will continue to police our salt water shores to control our enemies, the "Fishogs."

I have heard of size limits proposed for blues, flounders, weaks and blacks. If the saltwater fisherman does not contribute his license fee who will research and enforce these laws if and when they are created? I wish you to understand that I have written this letter as a concerned saltwater fisherman. **Mr. G. Maerz, Richmond Hills.**

SEEKS TO JOIN SURF CLUB

I enjoy reading your magazine very much. Over the past several months I have developed an interest in surf casting and would like to join a surf fishing club. I am a resident of Hicksville and would appreciate any information you could send me regarding surfcasting clubs fairly near my residence. Thank you for helping me in any way you can. **Kevin O'Connell, 102 Lantern Road, Hicksville, NY 11801.**

Pass It On...

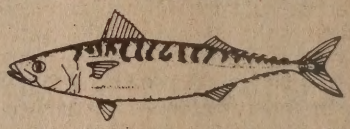
ORGANIZING FOR MORE BOATING FUN

Milwaukee, October 27th, a new handbook to aid boaters—be their sport crusing, fishing, skiing, or racing—has been prepared by Evinrude Motors, the Milwaukee based outboard manufacturer. The easy-to-read booklet entitled, "How To Organize Clubs For Fishing, Cruising, Racing and Skiing," has been written with the idea that boaters want the comaraderie of a club, plus the many activities only a large group or club can offer.

Good examples of this are the fishing tournaments held by clubs across the U.S. These clubs not only conduct tournaments but also hold fishing seminars with top professional fishermen disclosing their fishing secrets. Now, even the ladies are forming their own clubs in various states.

The formation of any type of club can be traced to the prime mover—he's the one who takes it upon himself to get the ball rolling and puts in extra hours that eventually spell success. Anyone who is interested in forming a club, regardless of their organizational experience, dan can do so by following the step-by-step procedures.

A sample of this booklet may be obtained by writing to the Evinrude Public Relations Department, P.O. Box 663, Milwaukee, Wis. 53201.



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EDITORIAL

INTERIM FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS FOR 1978

Although eight (8) Regional Fisheries Management Councils have been established under 200-mile limit legislation (P.L. 94-265), their management proposals will not be available before March 1, 1978. Still, the Secretary of Commerce must comply with other provisions of P.L. 94-265 and therefore must have Preliminary Management Plans (PMP's) formulated by March 1, 1977 to cover the period March 1, 1977 to March 1, 1978. The National Marine Fisheries Service is assisting with the formulation of PMP's.

We disagree with some of the draft recommendations in these PMP's. We find aspects of them to be illogical, unrealistic, unscientific, motivated by diplomatic concerns, and inconsistent with a meaningful attempt at coastal fisheries management.

First: We believe that the data base employed to arrive at quotas is weak. It is generally acknowledged by marine biologists that sampling procedures and landing statistics are unreliable. Furthermore, available supplementary data from sportfishermen, commercial fishermen, and partyboat-charterboat captains was not sought out. This information is religated to the opinion level, in spite of the fact that these people are experts on a variety of fishes in our area. Many of these people have had decades of practical experience and the information that they have is invaluable. For example, a simple study of Captain Paul Forsberg's logbooks for the Viking Fleet for the past ten years would have improved this data base immeasurably.

Second: The recommendations for quotas are frequently unrealistic. The scientists are clearly not in touch with the real world. Although deep water sampling may indicate that fish stocks are viable, this conclusion cannot be reconciled with the absence or reduced availability of these species on inshore grounds. Thus, the scientists have ignored the "facts of life" on the inshore grounds and by so doing are ignoring the recreational rights of U.S. citizens and the right of economic survival of U.S. commercial fishermen, most of whom operate inshore.

Third: PMP for Atlantic Mackerel is absurd. There is no kinder way to say it. U.S. fisheries scientists recommend a quota of zero because stocks of mackerel are depleted. The zero quota would allow for rebuilding. Inspite of these facts and recommendations the PMP recommends a quota of 55,000 metric tons. Stocks of atlantic mackerel have declined from an estimated 2,529,000 metric tons in 1969 to 374,000 metric tons in 1976.

Furthermore only 5,000 metric tons, out of the total 55,000 metric ton quota, is allocated to U.S. commercial fishermen. *Question:* What kind of rational allocates 90.9% of a quota for a decimated species to foreign nationals? What debt do we owe to them that our commercial fishermen and sportsfishermen must suffer economic and recreational ruin?

Fourth: Creation of catch "windows," areas set aside for harvest by foreign nationals, overlap an area on the Continental Shelf that is located southeast of Long Island known as a winter-spawning ground for some bottom species. These species include the sea bass, porgy, and fluke. A treaty, negotiated some years ago with foreign nationals, prohibits fishing on these grounds under terms designed to protect these species. The design of new windows would supersede that treaty. That portion of PMP windows that overlap this treaty area must be closed to help maintain renewed vitality of sea bass, porgy and fluke fisheries.

Fifth: Surveillance and enforcement proposals seem inadequate. Twenty observers will be available for surveillance, but 42 foreign vessels will be allowed in window areas. We do not trust foreign nationals with our best interests. There exists too many complications in the regulations and procedures to allow for meaningful monitoring.

Sixth: The quota for "other finfish" (150,000 metric tons) is too high and there exists no reliable way to manage this quota. "Other finfish" is a group comprised of 60 species and comprises 25% of total present fish biomass. The following fish are excepted from this category: cod, haddock, redfish, silver hake, red hake, mackerel, pollack, flounder, alewive, plus some additional species.

The quota for "other finfish" will result as by-catch. That is, there will be no directed fishery, but that they will be harvested incidental to catch of other specified species. When the "other finfish" quota is filled, the directed fishery (i.e. squid, mackerel, hake) is supposed to be closed down.

We do not believe that it will be possible to monitor this statistic effectively. Changes in enforcement and surveillance procedures are indicated.

Seventh: Foreign nationals have begun to invest in the U.S. commercial fishing industry. Hilton Seafood, Japan; North Pacific Processors, Japan; Harbor Seafoods, Japan; Bellingham Cold Storage, U.S.S.R.; Los Angeles Smoking-Curing Co., Finland; and Seacoast Products, United Kingdom.

This is a mistake. The 200-mile limit should provide U.S. interest to control the fisheries on our continental shelf. If U.S. commercial industry, free of foreign involvement, caught, processed and exported these fish, it would revitalize a troubled economy and improve the balance of trade figures.

Eighth: One last item remains to be discussed. Reporters from local newspapers were present at hearings held December 2, 1976. Scott Simons and I were also present along with many sportsmen and commercial fishermen. The Long Island Fisherman presented many of the above thoughts to representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service, on behalf of Long Island fishermen. I think that you'll agree that the above comments are thoughtful and in good taste. Local fishermen were outspoken but basically polite and patient with procedures.

One story, that appeared in the Long Island Press, (Friday, 12/2) by-line Drew Scott, distorted what took place and we feel compelled to offer contradictory testimony. The group was not "rowdy" and many legitimate comments were offered by many, including ourselves. However, Mr. Scott saw fit to dwell on the dramatic, which is his right, but we feel that this does not represent responsible journalism.

The Long Island Fisherman has prepared a formal document of recommendations to the Director of The National Marine Fisheries Service. A copy of this document will be published in next week's issue of L.I.F.

Furthermore, if you agree with our objections you may write to: Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Mass. 01930, before January 1, 1977.

Lillian A. Snyder

Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

Sauteed Sole

The National Fisheries Service reminds us that March 1, 1977 will mark one of the most significant events in the history of American Fisheries. On that day the Fishery Conservation and Management Act goes into effect. And this Act will extend the exclusive fisheries jurisdiction of the United States from 12 to 200 miles. No longer will the Russian and other foreign fishing factory ships have the right to deplete the numbers of various species of fish so necessary to the health and economy of this Nation. Would that we had acted upon this situation long before this late date. But—better late than never!

Even though the flounder fishing season is almost over for this year (and a horrible season it has been for most of us as far as catches are concerned) the following recipe is not only picture-pretty but it tastes as if it were (as it is!) the masterpiece of a famous chef.

SAUTEED SOLE WITH CITRUS-ALMOND BUTTER

2 pounds pan-dressed, skinned sole, flounder, fluke (fresh or frozen)
1 teaspoon salt
Dash cayenne pepper
½ cup oleo or cooking oil
⅓ cup sliced, blanced almonds
2 tablespoons lemon or lime juice
½ tspn grated lemon or lime rind
1 small ripe avodaco, peeled, seeded and sliced.

Thaw frozen fish. Sprinkle with salt and cayenne pepper. Heat ¼ cup of oleo or oil in large cooking pan. Arrange fish in single layer in frying pan (about ½ at a time) and brown lightly on both sides, turning once, 5 to 7 minutes total cooking time or until the fish flakes easily with a fork. Transfer fish to heated serving platter; sprinkle with paprika and keep hot. Add remaining ¼ cup of oleo to frying pan; heat. Add almonds and toast lightly. Remove from heat; stir in juice and rind. Spoon over fish. Top with slices (thinly cut) of avocado. Makes 6 servings.

NOTE: One small addition to the above recipe will change its name to "Fillet of Sole Amandine" and also changes its taste—slightly. The change—mix the salt and cayenne pepper with 2 tablespoons of flour and sprinkle over the raw fish. Then follow the recipe as shown.

SMOKED SALMON

In one of my columns a month or two ago I mentioned the question asked by Thomas D. Moder of Oakland, New Jersey. Both he and a lovely lady from Bay Shore N.Y. had written me wondering how to properly smoke salmon so that the result would be "lox." Both of them had much experience in smoking all kinds of fish but when they tried to smoke salmon so that it tasted like lox, they were stumped. I, in turn, asked the question of our readers. Lo and behold, one reader, H. Kern of Sayville, N.Y. wrote a note to us as follows:

"A few years back my fishing buddy and I used to experiment with smoking different types of fish and while doing so, I made a few notes...After cleaning and brining the fish, we found that eels were tastier when smoked with pear tree wood. Salmon smoked with damp hickory-wood chips turned out best. We found that if the fish was too dry after smoking, by lightly brushing your

favorite cooking oil on the skin and then foil wrapping the fish and placing it in the refrigerator for a few hours or a day, the resultant smoked salmon was definitely and vastly improved." Mr. Kern ends his letter by adding "Hoping this helped a little." I am sure that Mr. Broder and others will find that Mr. Kern's method helped a lot.

COOKING HINT: De-boning cooked fish is easy! Just run the blade of a knife down center of the fish and the tender cooked fish can then be lifted off from each side starting at the center. Turn fish and repeat process.

Here is a most interesting-looking salad which I swear I intend trying myself!

BAKED CURRIED CRAB SALAD

1 (7½ ounce) can Alaska King Crab or 1 (6 oz.) package frozen Alaska King crab, defrosted.
1½ cups cooked rice
½ cup chopped celery
¼ cup chopped peanuts
3 hard boiled eggs, diced
2 tblspns chopped chutney
2 tspns grated onion
¼ tspn salt
1 tspn curry powder
¾ cup mayonnaise
Parsley—for garnish

Drain crab, reserving a leg piece for garnish. Slice remaining crab with sharp knife. Combine crab and remaining ingredients, except parsley. Place crab mixture in buttered baking dish: garnish with reserved crab leg. Bake in 350 degree F oven for 30 minutes or until heated thorough. Garnish with parsley. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

POACHED SALMON WITH CUCUMBER SAUCE

2 cups water
2 tspns salt
1 tblspn lemon juice
6 salmon steaks (thaw if frozen)
3 cucumbers
1½ cups dairy sour cream
1½ tspns minced parsley
1 tspn minced green onion
1½ tspns lemon juice
¾ tspn salt
¼ tspn white pepper

In skillet, heat water with 2 teaspoons salt and 1 tablespoon lemon juice to boiling. Add salmon. Cover and simmer for 12 minutes. Remove steaks with slotted spatula and chill.

Sauce: Shred enough cucumber to measure ¾ cups—do not drain. Add sour cream, parsley, green onion, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Blend well. Chill. Serves 6.

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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Advanced Codfishing Part III

This weeks article will be the last installment in the series on advanced codfishing. In Part One, we discussed how the individual angler can obtain an edge over his fellow fishermen by simply using a bait other than the skimmer clam that is usually provided for bait. In last week's issue we discussed where to look for cod, tackle and the various rigs that are used under different circumstances. This week we'll wind things up with various fishing techniques and general tips that should help to improve your scores with the cod.

If there was one golden rule to successful codfishing, it would have to be FISH A STILL BAIT. For some reason, the cod is often very shy and suspicious, and as a result usually prefer a bait that isn't jumping all over the place. The average angler has developed the habit of lifting his rod tip periodically at regular intervals to see if he has a bite. While this is necessary with most bottom feeding fish, it can be most often is disastrous when codfishing. If a cod is "eye balling" your bait and it suddenly jumps a foot or two off the bottom, it's more than a safe bet that he'll quickly lose his appetite. So the trick is to keep your bait ABSOLUTELY MOTIONLESS at all times.

The goal of keeping a bait motionless is the reason that the diamond sinker should always be used when codfishing. As shown in Diagram A, the diamond sinker is flat on two sides, which allows it to rest on the bottom with little if any movement due to current action. The bank sinker is cylindrical, which means it has a tendency to roll along the bottom from the force of the current. The pyramid sinker would be a good choice on the basis of it's ability to dig in and "hold" bottom, but as a rule they are not available in the larger weights necessary for fishing in deep water. The diamond sinker is available in sizes ranging from six to twenty ounces, which can add up to a pretty penny at the going rate of five or six cents an ounce. So if you're looking for a project to keep you busy over the off-season, it might be a good idea to pool your resources with a fishing buddy to buy a diamond sinker mold so you can make your own.

The necessity of keeping the bait motionless will require you to keep a long "scope" to your line so that the rise and fall of the boat by wave action does not translate itself into a similar rise and fall of your bait. Let out plenty of line so that it has an angle of at least 45 degrees between the boat and the bottom, which will keep this movement to a minimum. When the boat rises on a large wave or swell, lower the tip of your rod to compensate.

One nuisance that must be put up with quite often while codfishing are the pesky fish that will compete for the bait, such as the spiney dogfish, bergalls, whiting, ling and conger eels. Your best bet is to simply ignore the small pecks these fish will make on the bait, waiting instead for a cod to pick up the bait. Eventually the smaller fish will manage to get the bait off the hook, but don't be too quick to pull up your line to check to see if you have any bait left. Give the cod a chance! What often happens when there are a lot of whiting or other smaller species around is they will suddenly stop biting when Mr. Cod shows up. This is because THEY are usually what the cod have been feeding on. (See Part One of this series.) So when you suddenly stop getting the small bites, give it a minute or two before pulling up to check the bait just in case all the action ceased because of a cod moving into the area.

Getting the terminal tackle down to the bottom without it becoming tangled up is another problem that the angler must recognize before doing a job on the cod. When the rig is lowered to the bottom with the reel on free-spool, a spinning action is often created as the snell of the baited hook has a tendency to twist upwards and wrap itself around the main leader. As a result, you may waste considerable fishing time without being aware of it. Part of the problem may be alleviated by rigging up dropper loops, as described in last week's article. Another good idea is to take a two-inch length of surgical tube with a 3/16 inch diameter and use it to reinforce the stiffness of the dropper loops, which helps to keep the hook snell standing straight out from the leader where it is less likely to get tangled. I tried this idea of John Konior's this past summer on my fluke rigs and multiple-hook seabass and porgy rigs and round that it really works great. Just take the tubing and pass the end loop of the hook snell through it so that the tube floats free on the snell. Then connect the end loop of the snell to the dropper on the leader and pull them taut so that the loops interlock. The piece of tubing is simply forced over the interlocking loops, just like it was a sleeve. Because of its cylindrical shape the tubing creates very little wate resistance so don't worry about using to much hardware in this case.

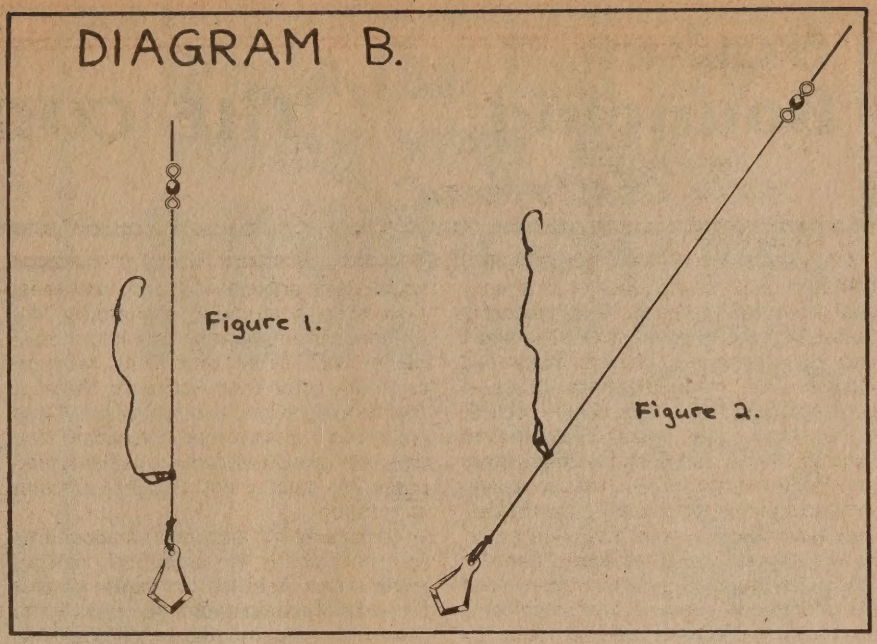
Another trick to keep the rig tanglin to a minimum is to cast the rig away fron the boat. Diagram B, figure 1 show what happens when the rig is let ou straight down. The snell of the hook parallel and very close to the mai leader, so as the bait spins it is very eas to get it tangled around it. But figure shows how the snell of the hooks stand away from the main leader when the ri is cast away from the boat and it travel to the bottom at an angle, making almost impossible to become tangle around the leader. Be extremely cau ious when casting on an open boat fo the obvious reasons. Your best bet is t make short underhand casts, jus "lobbing" the rig fifteen or twenty fee from the boat.

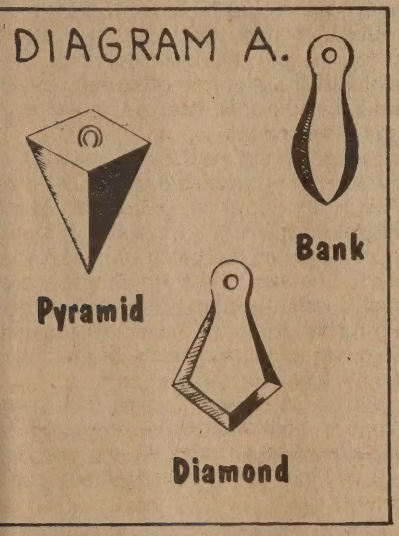
As briefly discussed in Part One, you position on the rail of an open boat ca be essential to success if most of th fishing is going to be done while a anchor. But if the fishing is over ope bottom and the boat is drifting, it's whole new ballgame. That is, if one use a little common sense and logic. Don make the mistake of most fisherman an knock yourself out by fishing on th "right" side of the boat, which mistakenly thought to be the side of th drifting boat where the lines point awa from the vessel. The "right" side of th boat is actually the opposite side, whe the lines go UNDER the boat, whic seems to annoy many anglers for som reason. The logic is simple: the side the boat where the lines are goin underneath the hull is the direction th boat is drifting in. So by fishing from th side, your baited rig will be the first meet any cod that are in the path of th drifting boat. You also have th advantage of not having to fish should to shoulder with all those other angle fishing on the "right" side of the boa or so they thought. The only thing yo have to watch out for is your line rubbin against the hull, which may cau fraying of the monoifilament. A sev foot rod helps to overcome this min problem.

Another good trick to use wh drifting is the diamond-jig-with-dropp tube rig that we covered last wee Fishing once again from the "wrong side of the boat as discussed, cast the r into the direction of the drift as far as y

n. Control the line feeding off the ool with a little thumb pressure so that u know the instant the jig touches ttom. As soon as you feel that slight ump, immediately start reeling in as st as you can call the way to the rface, occasionally varying the speed slowing down slightly. The idea of the ole rig is to make it appear to the cod at a whiting or other fish (imited by e diamond jig) is chasing a smaller itfish (imitated by the small tube). is gets his competitive juices flowing, d more times than not the brown mber will attack the tube before the amond jig gets it. And don't be rprised if a big pollack happens to ab this rig!

When it comes time to gaff your cod, ways try to gaff it in the head. This can very important when it comes to tting a good fish on the "scales-of-stice" to decide the pool, where a few





ounces can mean a lot. A cod gaffed in the belly will quickly lose body juices, resulting in a loss of weight. Cod also have a nice set of teeth, so if you pull up one that is gut hooked don't go putting your fingers down his throat...use a hook disgorger.

Needless to say, codfishing is done in some rotten weather, so do all you can to prepare for the worse. Remember, you can't overdress! If too much clothing is worn, you can always take off a layer or two...but you can't wear what you don't have. Wear insulated underwear, wool socks, a sweatshirt with a hood or some other item to cover the ears, etc. It also may pay to invest in a few hand warmers to keep in your pockets if you have thin blood and can't take the cold. And don't forget to take those seasick pills in case you come down with a dose of mal-de-mer.

One final note: if the fishing is slow, try fishing at various levels. Right now the draggers are taking codfish off the south shore of Long Island as high as thirty feet off the bottom. The cod have been feeding on whiting, so they are constantly moving up and down and feeding at various levels. Try using a small live whiting or other fish that is on the bottom. Rig it up, drop it to the bottom and then slowly reel the tempting bait towards the surface.

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

THE COD SHARK

I always enjoy codfishing from party boats. In fact, you might say I'm a party boat fan from 'way back. Whether this is because of the ruggedness of the sport and the friendship of the many cod fanatics that frequent these boats, I don't know. But whatever it is, it's there.

I'll admit that when it comes to fishing, I'm an odd duck. Nothing fazes me. For instance, when I make up my mind to spend a day aboard a party boat, I always make it a point to arrive early. By early, I mean just that: early. The fact that I'm always restless the night before the anticipated trip and find sleep hard to come by makes it easy enough. To arrive at dockside several hours before scheduled sailing time means little to me. Standing around in the cold and gloom means less.

I consider this quirk as part of my fishing day and avidly look forward to it. You may be sure that it is a rare occasion when someone beats me on board. This early-bird procedure has its advantages, for it enables me to have the pick of what I consider choice rail spots. But on the one particular morning I have in mind, I was chagrined to discover I was not the only fisherman to believe as I do.

I immediately noticed the gentleman's presence as I stepped on board. I felt a twinge of disappointment, coupled with a bit of annoyance, as I realized it was quite possible this fisherman had beaten me to my favorite codfishing spot: the bow.

And he had.

His cheery "Good morning" removed some of the grumpiness I felt, and in no time at all, we were conversing like life-long fishing buddies. He told me his name was Mike and that he had originally come from Rockport, Mass. It didn't take me long to discover that I was confronted by an expert fisherman. You can tell rather quickly if a fisherman knows his stuff or not. I could fault him on nothing.

There was no briggadocio about this fellow. When we swapped fishing experiences, I knew his tales weren't figments of the imagination, or had some come from the mouths of others. This guy was the real goods. I had the feeling I could learn much from him. Of that I was certain. Therefore, I had no hesitation about placing my gear next to his.

Our destination was the Cholera Banks. The weather was a codfisherman's dream for early December: practically windless; and as we cleared Jones Inlet, the sea was flat and the sun barely above the horizon. Beautiful.

We huddled on the stern in the lee of the pilot house along with several other passengers and watched the mate go through his finger-numbing chore of opening and slicing skimmers in the cold morning air. I noticed my new found friend watching the operation with more than casual interest. Bait preparation was something I'd seen done many times and the novelty for me had worn off years before.

Just before arriving on Cholera, Mike leaned over and spoke to the mate, whose only reply was a sideways nod in the direction of a wire basket which was covered with an empty burlap skimmer bag. Mike picked up a bait pan and motioned for me to do the same. He then helped himself to the skimmer in the wire basket, which I knew by its appearance was at least several days old and no doubt was intended to be used along with the chum.

We departed for the bow and began baiting our hooks. "I never use fresh skimmer if I can help it," Mike told me. "As long as the bait doesn't smell, cod will take it. I find it works better than the fresh stuff."

This was something new to me and I told him so. He shrugged his shoulders. "Maybe it won't work for you. Who knows? But I've always had better luck with this old stuff. Cod never seem to hesitate to accept soft bait if it's available. Fresh skimmer is tough, and it stays alive for hours after being opened. As far as I'm concerned, if it quivers to the touch, it's too fresh to use."

Well, I figured, if he was so sure of himself, who was I to argue. Try it, and see what happens. Which is what I did under his direction, putting a slice on each hook, making sure the barb was exposed near the soft stomach of the clam.

Minutes later, the boat was maneuvered into position and the anchor dropped. The whistle sounded and lines were quickly sent to the bottom. I noticed, though, that Mike was in no hurry to join in. His attention was centered on the anchor cable and when it became taut, only then did he send his rig to the bottom.

"Less tangles this way," he said in answer to my questioning look. And he was right. Several fisherman were already unsnarling a mess in the stern. "I'm never in too much of a hurry to start," he said. "If the fish are there, they'll wait. Besides I think those lines hitting bottom at one time spook the fish. Give 'em a few minutes to regroup and they'll spot yours sooner."

Which is exactly what happened. While my bait was being assaulted by dogfish, Mike set his hook into the first cod of the day. A fish about eight pounds.

Every one had a fair pick as the morning progressed, but it seemed from my observation around me, Mike had the edge by a fish or two. Certainly, he was outfishing me.

I noticed too, that he always cast away from the boat and always toward the anchor cable. When I asked for the reason, he said he believed the current pushing against the cable created some kind of underwater sound which in turn attracted the cod. Whether this is so, I don't know. But I do know that his method worked. By noontime I was sure he was high-hook with eight fish to his credit.

Eventually, the fish petered out, and the skipper decided to make a few drifts in the general area. Now, most times when this happens, party boat patrons will fish their bait away from the drift. I've never met a fisherman who enjoys dragging his line under the keel. But not Mike. When I proposed a change to the side of the boat offering easier fishing, Mike stayed put.

"Might be easier fishing," he said.

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"But you'll catch less fish."

But I wasn't convinced; so I foolishly joined the others. I say foolishly, because of the five fish caught on that drift, Mike had three. And this with a dozen other fishermen offering stiff competition. Just before quitting time, we made one more drift, but no cod were caught. As Mike said, you can't catch them if they aren't there.

It would be nice to finish this tale if I could tell you Mike won the pool that day. But he didn't. He didn't even come close. But what was more important I thought was the fact that he was high-hook for the day with eleven cod. His nearest competitor had six. When I told him I thought he was the best codfisherman I'd seen in many a moon—a cod shark, in fact—he declined the compliment.

"Nonsense," he said. "I just use common sense methods. Like on those drifts, for example. We were moving to the fish, not away. Right? My baits were the first ones to be seen as we passed over the cod. Had you stayed and fished alongside me, I know you'd have caught your share too."

Perhaps, I told him, but it seemed to me that the fundamentals of the game were his and his alone, and I promptly said so. "I don't agree with you," he said. "Any fisherman can fish as I do. There's no trick to it—just common sense, as I said."

"And an inborn feel for the game," I added.

"If you think that, you should have seen the codfishermen I used to fish with as a kid. They put guys like me in the little boy's class."

I didn't know at the time if Mike was putting me on about that, but if what he told me later was true (and I'm sure it was), those old-timers must have been some fishermen and I doff my fishing cap to their memory.

On the return trip home, I learned much from this superb fisherman. He had singular ideas on all phases of codfishing, ranging from rigging to the proper rod and reel; from bait presentation, to the best type and size of hook to use under certain conditions. His thoughts on leader length to use on full moon tides was a revelation. All in all he was a walking encyclopedia on the art of codfishing. No wonder he did so well. He worked at it.

I now use Mike's methods whenever I can. Soon after that trip, which was the turning point of my codfishing career, I began to develop a fanatical interest in "old whiskers." When I did, I immediately found my catch increasing.

Taking a tip from Mike, I've gone in for experimenting as often as possible. But I'm sure that even now with all my efforts, I'll never achieve results anywhere near those of Mike, the cod shark.

Truly, the fundamentals were his.

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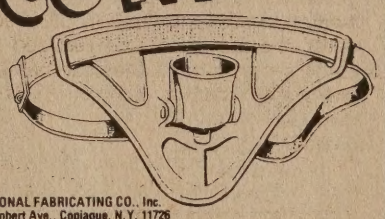

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Head To The Piers For Winter Whiting

by Milt Rosko

It usually happens in November. Winds from the west cause a flat surf, and the settled water is clean and just lapping at the shoreline. Tightly packed schools of sand eels and spearing crowd close to the sand, nervously swimming together and often breaking the surface as hungry swimmers assault the schools. Sometimes it is stripers that give the baits fits. Other times it is late staying blues and weaks. Most often it is hungry whiting that have just moved inshore from deeper water.

And therein lies some interesting fishing.

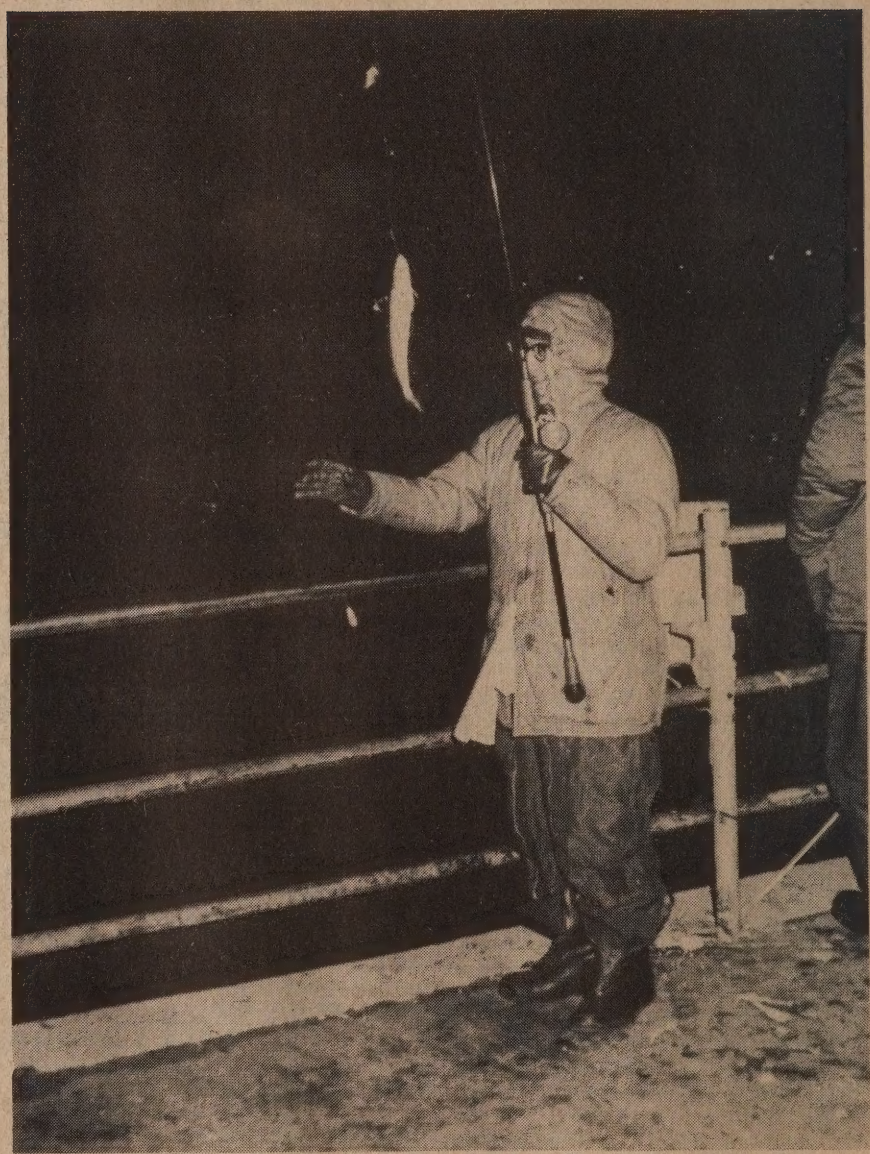
Along the New Jersey, Long Island and Connecticut coasts there are a limited number of fishing piers jutting over the water and some bridges, and lots of docks, breakwaters, and jetties. Around most everyone of these structures the baitfish congregate, sometimes beneath the lights, and almost as certainly as I write this, marauding schools of hungry whiting are close at hand.

The whiting, probably named silver hake, and often called frostfish by many, offers a late season challenge to the angler who has put his boat up for the winter, or determined that the stripers have already vacated his favorite surfing haunts.

Not difficult to catch, whiting certainly offer an exciting evening's sport at a time when there is little else available.

Most whiting are caught by casters employing every type of fishing tackle imaginable. You'll see everything used from high surf outfits used to reach far out over the rocks at Montauk, and one-handed spinning rigs more at home on a trout stream. But regardless of the outfit being used to present the bait, just about the only thing the whiting finds of interest is the bait on the hook, and when they're hungry they'll take most anything that's offered.

Pier casters and bridge fishermen generally employ a high-low rig, fishing one hook down near the bottom, where it will often tempt a strike from a ling—really a red hake—while the top hook, fished 18 to 36 inches off the bottom, will coax strikes from the whiting, which doesn't hesitate to move off bottom in search of a meal.



Ben Sowul swings a whiting over the rail of Long Branch Pier. He's using a high-low rig, which keeps the high hook well off the bottom, where whiting are apt to spot your bait. Ben and most pier regulars use strips of whiting, mackerel, herring or squid for bait.

Size 1 /0 or 2/0 Carlisle, Claw or Beak style hooks are favored, and usually snelled to 12 to 18 inches of leader material. Sufficient sinker weight to hold bottom is all that is necessary. When conditions are ideal just an ounce or two is often enough weight, unless the water is deep and you've got to contend with

current.

There are a wide variety of natural baits used for whiting and its traveling companion, the ling. Squid finds favor, as do fillets cut from herring, mackerel and fresh whiting, and then cut into thin strips measuring a half inch in width by four inches in length.

Whiting readily take a moving bait, so don't just cast out and let the bait sit on the bottom. Work the bait, moving your rod tip, thus causing the bait to flutter in an enticing manner as it is retrieved. When a whiting strikes, lift back promptly and you'll quickly hook the hungry bottom feeder.

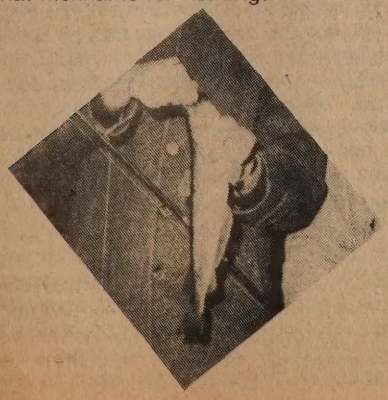
While by far the greatest number of whiting are taken while bottom bouncing with natural baits, there are increasing numbers of rock hoppers, surfmen and dock fishermen who are turning to artificials and enjoying super results.

Many years ago I caught my first whiting on an artificial quite by accident. Johnny Creenan and I had been catching lots of school stripers from Jersey jetties at night using small Atom swimmers and Rebel plugs. Suddenly one night instead of bass we were rewarded with strikes from whiting that ranged from three-quarters to a pound and a half. Next I found that we could catch still more of the whiting by using medium running Mirrolure plugs. Then too, small bucktail jigs such as the Upperman and Smilin Bill tipped with a piece of tail hook pork rind also worked wonders. The technique was to keep the plug or bucktail moving, but to retrieve it slowly. The slower the better. Sometimes a teaser ahead of the lure will bring strikes too.

It paid handsome dividends when the linesiders had vacated our waters, and since then we've enjoyed many a fun-filled evening fishing for the silvery frostfish.

The key to this fishing is a flat ocean. Often during November and December it gets just like a millpond, and when that happens you can be certain that once you find the bait you'll find the whiting chasing it.

But dress warm, because it can get mighty cold on the piers, jetties, beaches and docks. After all, frostfish didn't get that nickname for nothing!



Happiness is a big whiting. Here's Milt Rosko unhooking a big whiting he hooked while fishing from a coastal pier. Note the bucket of whiting he's caught in just an evening's fast fishing. Whiting move offshore during daylight hours, and night fishing is the only successful method for pier casters.

Bundle up is the key word at the fishing piers. Night anglers put on plenty of clothes and usually don foul weather gear over their regular clothes to ward off the icy blasts. Light westerly winds cause a flat ocean and the bait to move inshore, with the whiting and ling close behind.

WINTER PROJECTS

by Richard Giessuebel

This story is not about the fish we catch every summer, but rather about the mood that catches us every winter. Come January and February when Ol' Man Winter is really bearing down and you really can't stay out with him too, too long, just what can you do with your time to maintain your sanity and composure while waiting upon the next fishing season. Well, in this article we will explore the various things you can do in the winter to help inshore that you will have a more productive spring and summer fishing season, as well as a safe, sound, and sane winter.

One of the first things you can do is to inventory your fishing gear. First make a list of all the gear you possess. Then go back over your list and record the number of the various expendable items you own. Then, extend the list to all the pieces of equipment you wished were yours. Now, rearrange your list in alphabetical order. What several of my friends and I do during the winter is to exchange lists. We make several xerox copies of our lists and then we exchange them with each other. Then, as we shop during the winter, we are aware of what the other guy needs as well as what we need, and are always looking for sales and bargins. You'd be surprised at just how much can be saved by doing this and also at the time you can kill while out looking for something that you might not have even realized you required unless you had prepared just such an inventory.

Also on your inventory you can record when you made line changes and what pound test lines you put on the various spools you possess. You can check for and note any poles with frayed line so that you can be prepared to change them at a later date, and in a manner I will now describe.

Many years ago, I learned that in order to be a good caster, the spool on the pole I was fishing was the most important element. That's to say that the spool was as full of line as it could possibly be. The pound test also mattered, but all things being relative, reels fishing the exact same tests, those with more line on them will definitely cast further. I therefore, learned to keep my spools as full of line as I could. At first, this was a very expensive venture, but then I discovered to only pull enough line off my reel so that the connecting knot, even as streamlined as they can be, which join the two lines together couldn't interfere with my casts. In this manner, much less line is required to fill the spools to the capacities they require in order to cast the furthest. The knot I use to connect these two lines is a double blood knot. This knot is a strong one, and the left over ends can be snipped off very close to the knot itself, leaving a very smooth and uninhibiting connection which if it had to could pass very gingerly through the poles guides on any very long cast.

Equipment maintenance is important. If you can see all your equipment, then you can plan what to work on first, etc.

The next thing you can do is to check out your equipment. The first thing to check upon is the condition of your rod's guides. If they have grooves in them, it would be wise to either have them replaced or to replace them yourself. I can remember noting grooved eyelets on my fluke pole several years ago. Wouldn't you know it, I received a terrific hit and as I fought the fish, I saw my line shreading right in front of me. Was it a fluke? Not on your life. And to add insult to injury the next fish to cross the rail of the boat after my line had broken was a nine pound weakfish. To say I was upset would be an understatement, but the incident did at least leave a lasting impression upon my mind, and now whenever grooves appear, I remove the guides immediately. This winter, The Fisherman will probably again explain in picture form just what is required in order to replace old worn guides.

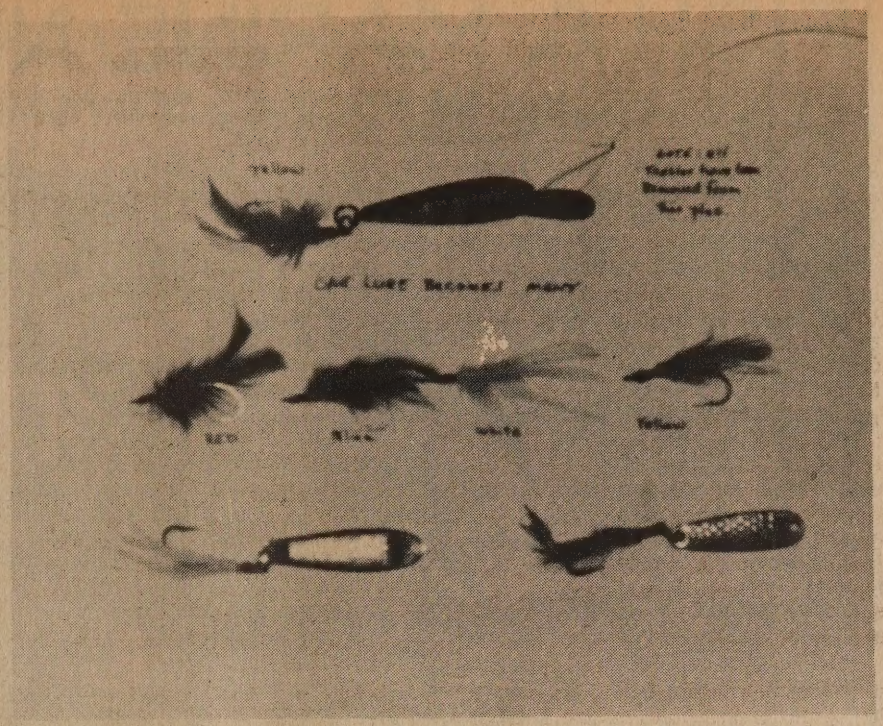
Another item which could justly receive your whole hearted attention is looking for and replacing any worn hair or thread on your bucktails, plugs, and other metals which might employ such tail feather attractions. I am an advocate of the single hook versus the treble hook whenever the interchange can be made conveniently. All the single hooks I use are adorned with various colored feathers. Hence, should a certain color show itself as the color of the day as far as fish preference goes, I simply change tail hooks and by so doing, my one lure becomes a multitude of lures.

The way I wrap the tail feathers is to first put a row of guide wrapping material on the shank of a size two or three hook. I then put a layer of clear nail polish over the row. Next the feathers are added. I attempt to make the feathers all one color, only mixing red

and white on occasion, and only use three or four feathers per hook. After the feathers are in place, I continue to wind the string around them. As I approach the end of the string, that is when there is about three inches left, I wrap in another loop of line with the loop exposed on one end and the two ends of the line exposed on the other. Now, once this new addition is well covered, I take the end of my winding and I put it through the exposed loop. Then I pull out the two exposed ends, which leaves a neatly finished tail feather with only one piece of line left to be trimmed. When this is all done, I again apply an application of nail polish to the offering. The application can be re-administered as many times as required to give you a strong sound finish.

The way I make my fluke rigs is very similar to what I have just explained. First off, I use the same sized hooks, but I prefer that the eye of the hook is bent in or towards the barbs of the hook. Then, I like to snell the hooks to about thirty inches of twenty pound test line. I put the first wrapping on this contraption right over the snelling. Then I add the feathers as previously described. To further enhance this rig, I add a pearl to the line and then I tie the line off with a double overhand loop. The resulting rig is so deadly when utilized with a killie or strip of fluke belly, that it outfished all other combinations used by my friends and I this previous summer on a three to one ratio. It was so effective that by the end of the summer, everyone on board our fluking ventures used only this rig. Some of the other qualifications of the rig were that we used the white hair of the Impala, black binding thread, and one white pearl. You might consider giving this rig a try next season, and this would make a nice winter project for you to channel some of your anxieties into.

Another rig which also utilizes feathered hooks is the teaser rig. For this rig, I use some high poundage material such as fifty pound test monofilament line, a snap swivel, and a small barrel swivel. You afix the snap swivel to one end of your line with a blood knot and then you add the barrel swivel to the other end of the rig or about twenty four inches from the other end in the following manner: first tie a loop into your line with a single overhand knot. Then put the short end of line from the loop through the barrel swivel and immediately up and through the single overhand knot. Then tie a half hitch knot to the line above this knot and pull tight. Your finished product should leave you with a length of line extending off the barrel swivel to which you tie one of your feathered hooks. Any lure you now possess can be placed on to the swivel. The outcome of all this work is a rig that looks like it is a fish chasing a piece of bait and both now become possible targets for a much bigger fishes advances. This rig is, again, called a teaser rig and used very effectively by surf fishermen and boat fishermen when chasing schooled up stripers which are chasing bait under a sky full of gulls usually in the late of autumn.



When you make many colored feather teasers, one lure becomes many.

Another winter venture for you to do is to make your own bluefish rigs for the following year. In order to do this, you will need a supply of hooks, barrel swivels, and wire line. You will also want to make up rigs of two types: those to be used on day excursions and those to be used on night trips. I will now go into detail on how to accomplish this task. To begin with, you must get some size two and three short shanked tuna hooks. You need the small and sturdy barrel swivels. And you need flexible wire line in the twenty-seven to fifty pound bracket. In general, the rigs you will make for the day trip will be of a shorter nature with a smaller hook than the rigs you will make for the night bluefishing trips.

Let's look and see just how to make these rigs. The first thing you must do is to cut the flexible wire into workable lengths. For the day trips, the length between the barrel swivel and the number two hook should be no longer then three inches. Therefore, the length of line you use should be cut in the area of seven inches. You then take this line and attach it to the barrel swivel by putting the wire through the swivel and then bending the wire back to the line so that you have about an inch and a half to work with. This excess line is then wrapped around the wire and the tail of the remaining wrap can be conveniently broken off by rapid bending of the wire in the area you want the wire to break in. You could also use a pair of cutting pliers, but often a stub of line is left on the wrap which'll oft times be blamed for cutting a finger or two. Either way is sufficient. Now attach the hook to the other end of the wire and you're in business. This entire rig should be then painted black for maximum effectiveness. You see it'll be used during the day and the black paint will not allow any sunlight to be reflected off the rig. As far as the night rig goes, it's a whole new ballgame. You can now use the size three hooks, unpainted rigs, and as long a length of leader material as you want. The rig is then assembled in the exact same manner as previously described.

Many hooks can be made in an evening, much more than you could possibly use in several years, so this venture is a good thing to do to get several friends together to do something worth while, share old stories, and in general, just to shoot the breeze.

Many of us fishermen are fortunate enough to have a space in our abodes set aside totally to fishing. In the winter, this place can receive the full blunt of our attention. I find that I now clean out my canvas case, my fresh and saltwater tackle boxes, and my plastic cases which are usually crammed full of lures; and that I can hang all this material up in full view, making for easy inspection and maintenance. I can also clean off my shelves, making room for the myriad of rigs I store in old lure cases. Then, I also check the leader material I use on all my

(Continued on page 22.)

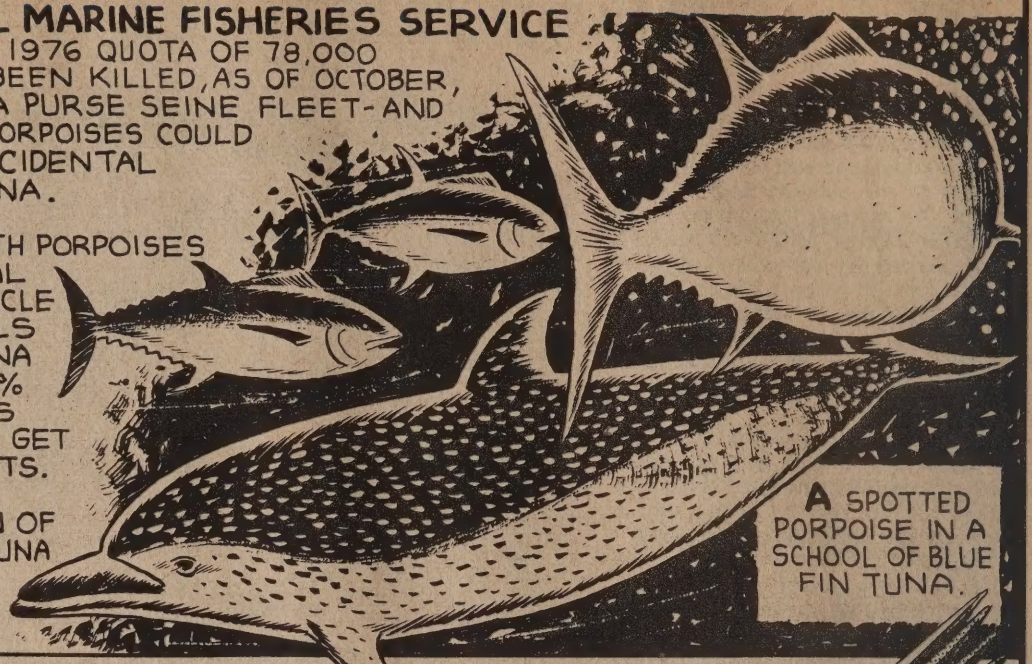
FISH & MARINE NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE ANNOUNCED THE 1976 QUOTA OF 78,000 PORPOISES HAD BEEN KILLED, AS OF OCTOBER, BY THE U.S. TUNA PURSE SEINE FLEET - AND THAT NO MORE PORPOISES COULD BE DROWNED INCIDENTAL TO NETTING TUNA.

TUNA SWIM WITH PORPOISES AND COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN ENCIRCLE THE SEA MAMMALS TO CATCH THE TUNA FISH. ABOUT 98% OF THE PORPOISES ESCAPE, THE REST GET CAUGHT IN THE NETS.

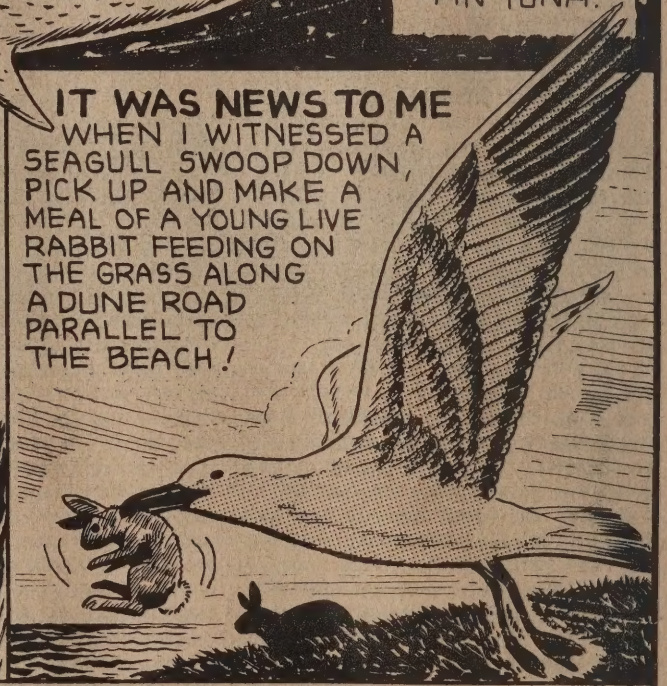
THE ASSOCIATION OF PORPOISES WITH TUNA IS AN UNEXPLAINED RIDDLE OF THE SEA.



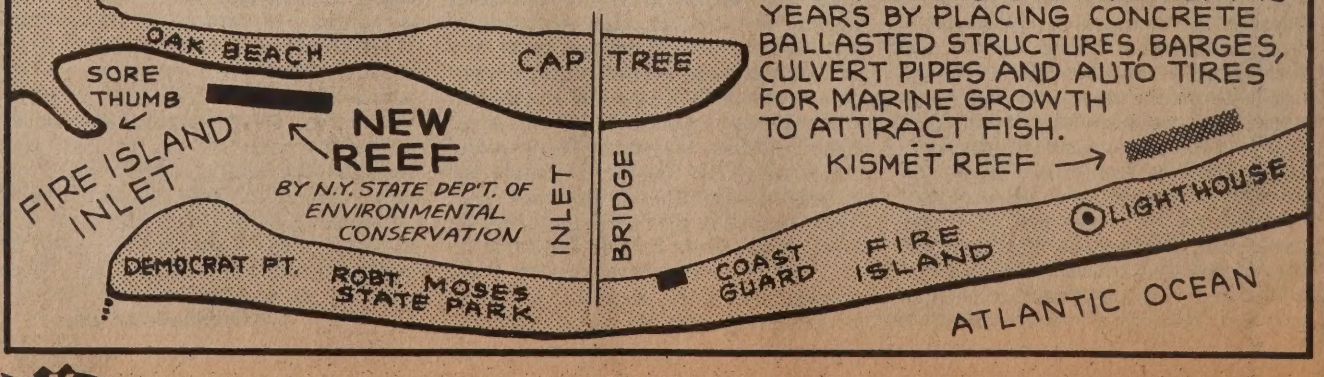
A SPOTTED PORPOISE IN A SCHOOL OF BLUE FIN TUNA.

DR. EINAR GRELL OF L.I. WINS ANOTHER INTERNAT'L GAME FISH ASSOC. WORLD RECORD WITH A 16 LB. WEAKFISH ON SIX-POUND TEST LINE TO ADD TO HIS OTHER WEAK & FLUKE RECORDS. THE PISCATORIAL PEDAGOGUE BOATED HIS FISH LAST JULY 29 WHILE SNAGGING LIVE BUNKERS FOR BAIT IN GREAT SOUTH BAY. THE BIG WEAK COULDN'T WAIT AND STRUCK THE BUNKER AS IT WAS BEING TAKEN ON A SMALL SILVER SPOON!

IT WAS NEWS TO ME WHEN I WITNESSED A SEAGULL SWOOP DOWN, PICK UP AND MAKE A MEAL OF A YOUNG LIVE RABBIT FEEDING ON THE GRASS ALONG A DUNE ROAD PARALLEL TO THE BEACH!



L.I. FISHERMEN ARE TO GET A NEW INSHORE ARTIFICIAL FISHING REEF INSIDE FIRE ISLAND INLET AT OAK BEACH. THE NEW REEF WILL BE 1,500 FT. LONG AND 10 FT. UNDER WATER. IT IS TO BE DEVELOPED OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS BY PLACING CONCRETE BALLASTED STRUCTURES, BARGES, CULVERT PIPES AND AUTO TIRES FOR MARINE GROWTH TO ATTRACT FISH.



1973 JEEP WAGONEER CONVERSION *by George of "4x4"*

Al Ingrassio wanted a buggy that would go anywhere. He was tired of letting air out of his tires, getting stuck crossing soft sand or cutting over ruts. Putting large tires on Wagoneers can't be done, he was told. Well, as you can see it **can** be done.

First: The rear axle spring schabels must be turned upside down; 1½ inches of steel spacer must be put between the spring and the axle housing. New shocks; use the same one that is original equipment for the front end. You must then install a brake line extension to take up the difference in height of the body.

Second: Remove front axle housing; remove front axle housing spring pads. Reweld spring pads on top of axle making sure you have them in the correct position. Put axle housing back under the springs so that the spring now sits on top of housing. Re-install "U" bolts. Lower shock mount on frame so you can use the original shocks. Brake line extenders must be used. 5" length is okay.

Third: Bolt on large tires and rims. Al has Tru Tracs on 15 x 8 rims which he doesn't have to air down. Then go anywhere you want to!

This article was submitted by George of VANS & 4 x 4 CONVERSIONS OF L.I., Deer Park. If you have a question or problem about your beach buggy, van, problems involving anything...on the subject such as use, repair, fabrication, trouble shooting, custom equipment, conversions, etc., send your questions to George, c/o L.I. Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, NY 11729.

If there is sufficient feedback from you beach buggy owners, a question and answer column will start.

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Fish Talk
with Dr. W.A. Muller

STRIPED BASS
Morone saxatilis

STRIPED BASS, linesides, Roccus, Rock. These are some of the names that we've hung on the most prestigeous salt water gamefish along the northeast coast.

THE RANGE of the striper is quite extensive and they are taken from northern Florida to Nova Scotia. However, there is little doubt that the vast majority of the fish are taken from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

THERE PROBABLY WAS A TIME when bass were able to spawn equally successfully all along its range. Today, their spawning is probably restricted to a few areas due to dredging, boat traffic, and pollution.

STRIPED BASS ARE SCAVENGERS as well as predators. That statement will probably draw bitter remarks from many anglers, but the pros know what I speak truth. Many anglers prefer to think of stripers as voracious predators that attack bait. This type of feeding is common of course, especially among school sized fish. But once bass get large, let's say over 20 pounds, they get lazy. The species however, has several characteristics and abilities that allow them to get away with often lethargic habits.

STRIPED BASS LIKE THEIR MEALS easy. That's why eels, bunker chunks, mackerel, and gobbs of worms are favored offerings. Current thinking among anglers is that the bait must be alive. However bass will eat anything that's edible, alive or dead.

HOW CAN BASS FEED AT leisure on live large baits? Well, let's take a closer look at this fish and maybe we'll get a few clues.

STRENGTH. Ever notice how a bass is constructed? Big head, thick body, and broad muscular tail. Although bass are not as streamlined as some other predators and therefore a big specimen will tire quickly when a big hunk of wood is stuck in their mouths, they maintain their strength and stamina much better when they can keep their mouths shut. But that body architecture comes in handy at certain times.

BASS LIKE TO LAY IN HEAVY current where they can let the moving water work for them. A gentle tail wiggle allows them to hold their position virtually without effort for indefinite periods of time. If something edible drifts by in the current they suck it in.

GENERATE MOUTH SUCTION. The bone, muscles and construction of the head allows the striped bass to generate incredible suction. They flail their gills, delay opening the mouth for a split second, and as the suction reaches a peak inside their mouths, they open their jaws and whatever is within several feet of the snout is pulled in. Ever hear a bass suck in a surface plug on a still night or watch how a surface flopping bunker disappears? It looks and sounds like somebody pulled the plug!

GREAT NIGHT VISION. Stripers probably see as well at night as we do in the day. The eye is oval and with noticeable front to back flattening. The pupil, or opening in the eye, can enlarge to almost the full diameter of the eye. This equates to a tremendous light gathering capacity and therefore great night vision. Ever paint a plug black to get through the blues so that the bass can be caught? Blues see well at night too, but not as well as bass.

STRIPED BASS ARE NOW successful residents of fresh water lakes and reservoirs in 30 states. There is evidence that they have even spawned in several of these waters. Big cows have been taken in The Colorado River, Oklahoma Lakes, and elsewhere across the south.

THE PHENOMENA OF FRESH water bass was actually an accident. On November 2nd, 1941 the first physical step was taken to create lakes Moultrie and Marion in South Carolina. The creation was made possible by damming the Santee and Cooper Rivers. However, river-run stripers were trapped, landlocked in the term, and a new fishery was created.

STRIPED BASS ARE PROLIFIC. For example, a 30 pound female can produce about four million eggs! The eggs hatch in about a day and a half depending upon water temperatures. The eggs then float with the current. The early fry, or juveniles will also float near the surface. When they are somewhat larger they begin to work their way into the shallows to feed.

AT THE END OF ONE YEAR they will have grown to about 6 to 10 inches. After two years they'll be about 10 to 15 inches. Our Department of Environmental Conservation says that in New York State the 16 inch legal limit was set because the bass reach sexual maturity at about 15 inches. Therefore, a sixteen inch limit allows for one spawning before they are caught.

MALES AND FEMALES do not grow at the same rates. There are many more females than males and this is so because a single male can fertilize the eggs from many females. The males have a shorter life span and grow at a different rate of speed. A 3 year old male will be about 15 inches while a female from the same year class will be about 16 inches long. At 10 years the difference may be about 2-3 inches.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FEMALE stripers may live to be as much as 50 years old or maybe more! However, the males live about 10 years. Most males that survive to sexual maturity will not exceed 15 pounds, but a few may grow as large as 25 pounds, but that's the upper limit.

THE AVERAGE LIFE SPAN overall is about 10 years. To the non-scientist that's misleading. Remember, however, that juveniles of most living things are the most vulnerable to stress. Of the millions and millions of eggs fertilized by a breeding school only thousands may survive through hatching. Predation, disease, and the elements take their share. Likewise, many specimens die until the fish are large enough to have a fighting chance against these factors.

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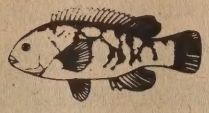

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

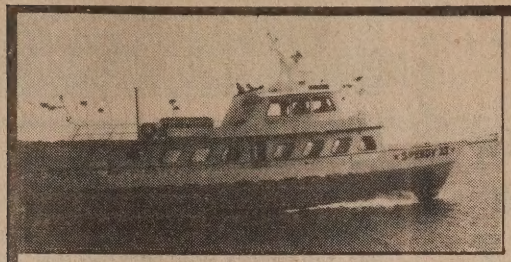
Captain Brad Glas of the **Helen II** reported that Saturday was poor but Sunday was good with a nice mess of cod, big blacks and baseball bat sized whiting taken. Mackerel and a few pollack were also picked up around the Cartwright area. The change of tide is the best time for cod.

Captain Les Beehan of the **Peconic Queen III** reported slow pickings. Wednesday was good with low man taking 9 cod. The pool went to a 35 pounder. All nice cod with 15 to 20 per man average. Also mackerel. Still a few blues daily, no seabass. Cartwright is good on the high spots. Lots of small cod were taken on Saturday. Fishing was fair on Sunday, all had a couple of cod. The draggers are doing pretty good with these species. Saturday there was a lot of whiting and ling taken at night.

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** asks us to let you know that the all new **Marlin IV** will be completed by the first week of January, 1977. The **Marlin IV** is being custom built in Morehead City, N.C. for the best in fishing and Rich says it will include all the latest in electronic equipment including Sonar Scanner, Radar, Loran C, and much

Ray Howard of Houston, Texas won the pool aboard the "Viking Star" with this 55 lb. cod.

CAPTREE



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Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Vikin Star** reports a tremendous upsurge in th cod fishing over the weekend, along wit big catches of large boston mackeral Paul himself shipped over 1,000 lbs. c mackeral after Sunday's trip. Saturda was very good but Sunday was eve better with 125 cod plus bags of macs fo just 9 anglers. Ted Gosselin had a 48 lb cod which he took back to Long Islan City with him. Babylon angler Paul Flag took a 44 lb. cod while Ralph Weiss o Montauk nailed a 40 pounder. Now tha there are a lot of cod and a good suppl of cows, due to this new body of gree fish that has moved in, the time is rip for all you cod hounds to make tracks ou to Montauk.

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reported fishing as fair but slowly improving. On Monday they had 15 co for 7 men. Wednesday saw 19 cod take for 5 people while on Thursday there wa only whiting taken. The wind was a problem that day. Saturday, half a bag o

Kevin Gross with a 12 lb. black taken a Kismet Reef. Subscriber Club Photo.

The Long Island FISHERMAN's

SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARD ☆

MINIMUM WEIGHTS FOR SPECIES

The minimum acceptance weights for anglers to receive a Skillful Angling Award and patch are:

FLOUNDER	2	STRIPED BASS	25
FLUKE	6	BLUEFISH	10
PORGY	3	WEAKFISH	7
BLACKFISH	6	POLLACK	18
COD	25	SEA BASS	3

Here's how the program works. When you catch a fish that you think may weigh more than the minimum requirement for that species (see the inset), take it to one of the weigh-stations listed below to have it officially weighed-in. If it meets the requirements, a post card will be filled out and signed by the proprietor and given to you to mail to The Fisherman. When we recieve the card and it is verified, a "Skillful Angling Award" certificate will be made out with the information from the card and sent with the patch directly to you from the offices of the Fisherman. That's it!

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•LING

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WINTER PROJECTS

(Continued from page 15.)

rigs, which I described earlier to yo When this is all accomplished, then s off on my final project for the winter.

This final project is to go to the libra and to acquaint myself with th availability of books on the shelves s aside for fishing. I often find an area interest just by browsing about the boo which are found there. Then, once th area of interest is located, I go abo reading everything that there is in t library concerning that particular area

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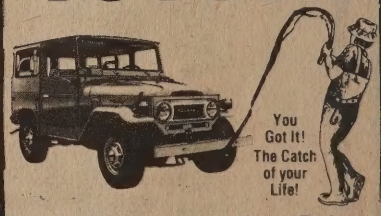

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whiting a man was the average. Sunday saw 21 codfish taken. They had to keep moving because they were catching in all different depths, basically 100 feet. Draggers are catching 80-10 fish a tow, so this is an indication that fish are around. Codfish are chasing whiting off the bottom and some are taken with the use of a high hook.

The **Captain Joseph Fleet** reported ling and whiting good. They took 11 cod on Sunday south of the inlet in 105 feet of water. Consistently fair catches with fish coming in spurts.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charter-boat **Lady Ann** reported fishing still poor but a few boats are doing okay on certain days. Unpredictable. On Saturday, south of the inlet in 90-110 feet they only had 5 cod but 10-15 whiting per man. Sunday there were good dragger reports 10 miles south of Cholera. The draggers were taking up to 100 cod a tow. Some party boats had up to 20 while others only had 4 or 5.

Captain Ben Litwin reports cod fishing improved for them over the weekend. On Sunday, seven codfish were taken with Tom Angel of Staten Island grabbing the pool with a 42 lb. brute of a codfish. Whiting were also caught. On Saturday 4 cod and a load of whiting were also picked up. Mrs. Litwin says that this is a good sign that a greater abundance of cod is moving into the general area and with cod fillets selling for $2.25 a pound in the supermarket, all you really need is one good fish to be way ahead on the fare.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Captain Al** reports cod fishing has improved slightly in quantity and that the quality is still very good. Al says that the fish that his fares are catching seem to get bigger and bigger each week and that new schools are moving in around Cholera. Fish are running up to 42 lbs. Pete Wenhus of Howard Beach bagged the 42 pounder. Dynamite Don Jones walked off the boat this weekend with a 35 lb. cod. Al is rounding off each days fishing with a couple of drops for whiting and ling on the way home. The boat is also now doing Friday night and Saturday night whiting fishing and they are coming back with loads and loads of whiting. Al is sailing these trips at 7:30 PM Friday and Saturday night and returning to the dock at 2:30AM. Sounds like a good program to us. Al says 60 to 100 whiting per man is no problem at all, and there are no crowds, but there is plenty of heat on the boat and the fish are 15 minutes from the jetty. The fare is $10.00.

The **Starstream II** reports fabulous whiting fishing with sacks being filled by all fares. On Sunday, Larry McCall had 110 big whiting. Saturday saw loads and loads of fish also brought on to the deck. These are real freezer filler trips, the value of the meat far exceeding the boat fare.

Captain Joe Long of the **Nite Owl** called to say that during the week on one trip fishing open bottom he took 18 cod of mixed sizes fishing in 80 feet of water.

The **Aloma II** reports whiting fishing very good and just a short ride from the jettys.

Charterboat **Bluefin II** called to tell us that on Sunday a 12 person charter (both men and women) took 15 cod and a big pail of whiting fishing 105 feet of water SE of the inlet. Joan Funsch of Beachhurst, Queens was high hook with four cod to 23½ pounds. The pool went to Lynn Handal of Great Neck with a 24 lb. cod.

ISLAND PARK

Captain Bill of the **ginnie'Mae** tells us that on Saturday he got 6 big cod fish, real tackle busters and filled the

Shown here are 6 of 9 cod from 17 ½ to 31 ½ lbs. taken by Bill Witchey Jr. of Massapequa tackle & Sport aboard the "Joan L" out of Freeport.

remainder of the sacks with whiting. On Sunday his fares had 8 codfish and also another load of whiting. Two of the cod tipped the scales at 33 pounds and 35 pounds. Real tackle busters. The prior Sunday his passengers decked a 33, 34 and 37 lb. cod. Bill says the fish are very big, though he wishes there were more of them. Action now is south of Cholera on open bottom.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Nick on the **Blue Sea III** reports excellent whiting fishing on Sunday plus a few ling. Fish are from ½ to 2 lbs. and the passengers are filling up sacks fill of whiting. Nick says he doesn't remember such great whiting fishing ever.

Captain Fred Ardolino of the **Amberjack** says to keep alert for his new boat on which work is progressing on schedule. It should be docked in the bay this spring. Watch for the Amberjack's ad announcing the boats imminent arrival.

Captain Huck on the **Helen H** tells us of loads and loads of whiting and ling that his fares are catching close by and big sized. Huck is fishing anywhere from Ambrose to Scotland and he says the fishing is unbelievably hot.

The **Dorothy B** could only report "Mamma Mia-What fishing- what a slaughter. Just fantastic-90% whiting". At least a burlap bag full per man.

The Chief, the bays 10AM open boat also reports super whiting and ling

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fishing with everyone filling up.

The **New Zephyr** reports phenominal whiting fishing to the tune of 2 bags a man. Really super excellent action says Captain Butch who is fishing north of Scotland, only 25 minutes from the dock. All fish are from 1 to 2 pounds and mostly whiting.

Captain Tom on the **Elsie K III** reports the same superb quantities of whiting being caught on his boat both Saturday and Sunday and that all fares are bailing fish.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

PORT JEFFERSON

Rich over at **Port Jefferson Sports Shop** just echoed what I was pretty sure of. Nobody said anything much about fishing last week because of the weather. The level of activity is registering right down around zero. Right now it is cold as the winter calm settles in over most of Long Island Sound.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said he didn't have any news mainly because of the cold weather. There's probably some activity at the power plant but most fishermen have said "the heck with it," unless the weather improves. Tom noted "the harbor is frozen" and fishing activity along most of the north shore is at a standstill.

Eddie mcQuen of Smithtown caught this 26 lb. striper fishing near Wading River on a red Tri-Fin eel.

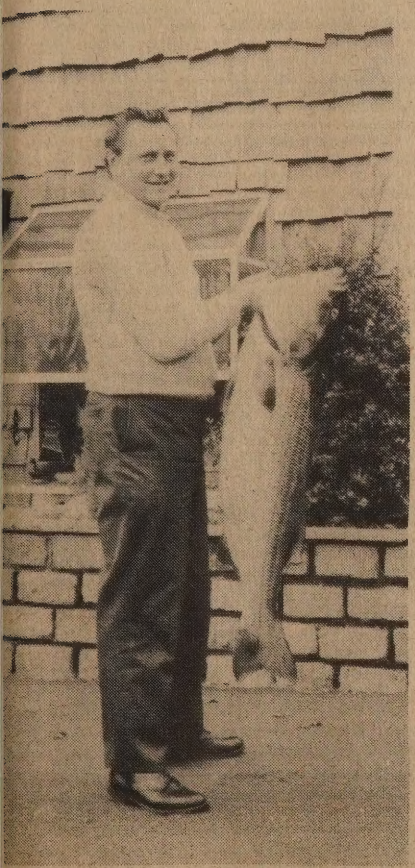
CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle was closed for ne year when I called. All his boats are ut of the water until somewhere around ne 1st of March. All the City Island oats are gone for the season also. ack's would like to thank all their ustomers for their business and wish veryone a Happy Holiday season.

NEW ROCHELLE

Capt. Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VI** aid the whiting fishing has been just antastic. Pete said most of the fellows ad enough fish that they called it quits y 1 P.M. Catches ranged from 50-125 sh depending on your ability. These hiting are so-so-o big. They're beating ut the ling for the pools. Ninety five ercent of the whiting are in the monster ategory.

So my friend, if you want some red ot, mackerel-type fishing in the dead of inter, better get yourself over to New ochelle and see that man Pete Pearson. ell him The Fisherman sent you.



Fireman Dennis Winkler (on left) happily holds the 41 lb. striper which he bagged this season from the beach off Wading River on a live eel. The fish was weighed in at Nick's Bait and Tackle, Rocky Point.

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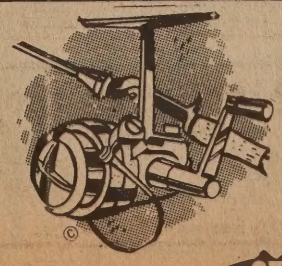

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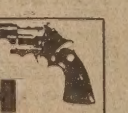

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Shows may be scheduled anytime during December through March. It is understood that any show will be allowed to be presented at the beginning of the club's meeting **before** regular club business is taken care of. Only one show per club.

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Alternate Date .....

Est. number of members to attend. .....

Name of Officer .....

Business Phone Number .....

Home Phone Number .....

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Deer Park, N.Y. 11729

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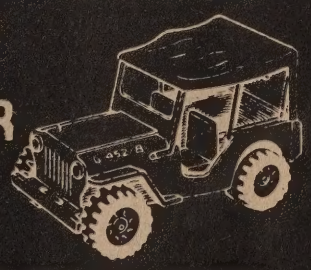

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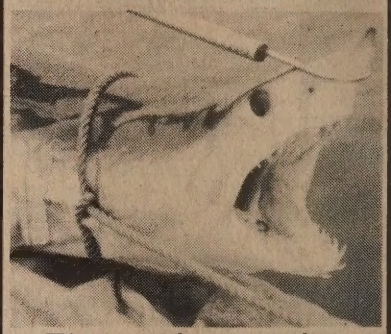

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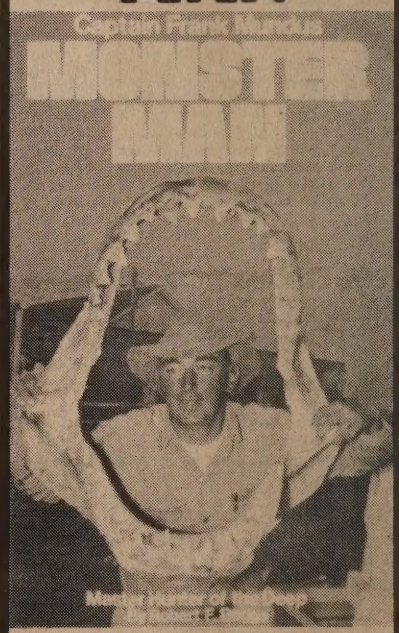

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	9:01	9:34	9:56	10:18	9:39	10:16	10:32	11:12	12:10	12:19	12:29	12:42	9:11	9:35	12/9
FRI	9:39	10:16	10:36	11:00	10:14	10:59	11:12	11:57	12:47	1:00	1:10	1:23	9:53	10:20	12/10
SAT	10:24	11:06	11:18	11:48	10:57	11:45	11:59	—	1:30	1:45	1:53	2:09	10:36	11:07	12/11
SUN	11:11	11:57	—	12:04	11:46	—	12:45	12:49	2:15	2:33	2:41	2:57	11:25	11:58	12/12
MON	—	12:04	12:40	12:56	12:34	12:37	1:40	1:49	3:05	3:28	3:31	3:52	—	12:21	12/13
TUE	12:52	1:02	1:39	1:55	1:24	1:34	2:35	2:49	4:01	4:24	4:26	4:51	12:56	1:19	12/14
WED	1:53	2:06	2:39	2:57	2:22	2:35	3:33	3:56	4:59	5:29	5:25	5:53	1:56	2:21	12/15
THUR	2:55	3:14	3:41	4:00	3:24	3:46	4:31	4:59	6:03	6:38	6:24	6:56	2:57	3:21	12/16

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 0[illegible]
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12/6	7:13	4:29
12/11	7:18	4:28
12/16	7:22	4:29
12/21	7:25	4:31
12/26	7:27	4:34

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/21	12/28	12/6	12/14

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	6:00	**12:25**	6:35	**12:45**
FRI.	6:55	**1:15**	7:25	**1:40**
SAT.	7:55	**2:10**	8:20	**2:35**
SUN.	8:50	**3:00**	9:10	**3:25**
MON.	9:40	**3:55**	10:05	**4:15**
TUES.	10:30	**4:45**	10:55	**5:10**
WED.	11:25	**5:30**	11:40	**5:55**
THURS.	—	**6:20**	12:10	**6:45**

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